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Attached is the list of National Intelligence Topics of Basic Continuing Interest (Tab A), on which I have assigned priorities suggested by the Annex to DCID 1/2. The priorities, in my view, turn out to have a rather nice balance. The only one that really bothers me is the 4 given to the advanced countries' political and social trends; I would raise it to a 3.

Some of our colleagues--particularly some of the functional NIOs--will probably be distressed by the low priorities that attach to global issues. These numbers are averages of all the priorities assigned to all the countries on the DCID 1/2 matrix.

What you do next with this list depends, I should think, on how much time you believe you have before you have to send it and the Current Interest list back to the PRC(I). If you feel in a hurry, it could go straight to the DCI; if you have a week or two, you could circulate it to the Office Directors and NIOs for their reactions.

We have in the meantime, incidentally, received suggested additions and amendments to our list of Current Topics from Hal Saunders. I recommend that you establish with the DCI that changes suggested by policy makers should be introduced during PRC(I) meetings, and not made unilaterally to you.

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